REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-22 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-15, and 17-18 are amended, claim 8 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 19-22 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 4-7 and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been substantially rewritten in independent form as new independent claim 19. Accordingly, independent claim 19 should be in condition for allowance along with claims 20-22, which depend therefrom.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 8, and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b, e) as being clearly anticipated by either German Patent No. 3133349 (hereinafter "Germany '349") or Hewitt et al. (hereinafter "Hewitt"), U.S. Patent No. 6,950,032. Claim 8 has been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to claims 1-3 and 12-18.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the leakage detector comprises a switch activated by a float member when accumulation of leaking water in the leakage containment device reaches a predetermined level. Independent method claim 15 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, determining whether a water leakage condition exists by a leakage detector comprising a switch activated by a float member when accumulation of leaking

water reaches a predetermined level. Neither Germany '349 nor Hewitt discloses or suggests such features or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1 and 15.

That is, Hewitt discloses an ionization type water sensor or switch 14. The water ionization switch 14 is connected to a power supply 12 and selectively conducts an electric signal when exposed to water 23. The water ionization switch 14 includes a container 40, two metallic electrodes 42, 44, and a dry non-conductive electrolyte crystallized compound 46. When water 43 enters the container 40 through openings 52, the water 23 comes in contact with the crystallized dry element 46. The water 23 then mixes with the dry crystallized electrolyte element 46 and a chemical change, also referred to as an ionization, takes place. This ionization forms an aqueous solution which creates a conductive chemical bridge uniting the two separate electrodes 42 and 44. Hence, the water absorbed into the element 46 forms a conductive path and a chemical switch is closed. Germany '349 discloses a capacitive pick up which detects the presence of a leak and cuts off a server valve and stops a water supply to the washing machine.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 15 over either Germany '349 or Hewitt should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-3, 12-14, and 16-18, as well as objected to claims 4-7, and 9-11, are allowable over both Germany '349 and Hewitt at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 15, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Druzbick
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 CLD/jlg/kah
Date: February 1, 2007
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610